



Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center 2017 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) strives to provide safe, efficient, and cost-effective mobilization and demobilization of emergency resources. Operational goals include:

- To promote efficient operations through interagency cooperation and standardized procedures.
- To be equally responsive to all the agencies that we serve.
- WE WILL:
 - Identify incident priorities according to Zone priority criteria regardless of agency.
 - Define the "closest" resource regardless of boundary or ownership and utilize as appropriate through cooperative agreements.
 - Recognize agency specific requirements, i.e. pre-suppression orders, special equipment requests, skills requests, etc.
 - Recognize sensitive, political, or special issues and follow through to minimize their impact on current operations.
 - Provide timely communications on information and decisions which affect the interagency community.
 - Give all agencies and dispatch centers equal consideration in filling resource requests.

Summary

This report summarizes the 2017 fire season within the Pecos Zone (PEZ) and Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) Initial Attack area.

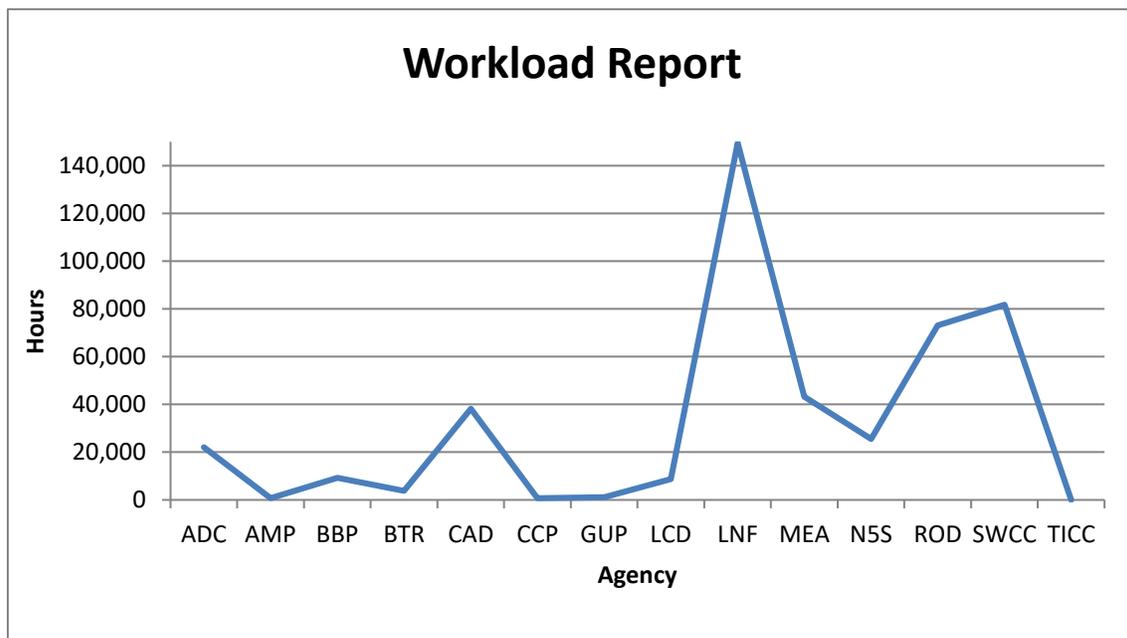
ADC's initial attack area consists of federal, state, and private lands protected by the Lincoln National Forest Service, Pecos District BLM, Las Cruces District BLM, BIA Mescalero Agency, New Mexico State Forestry Capitan District, Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, San Andreas National Wildlife Refuge, White Sands National Monument, Chamizal National Memorial, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Amistad National Recreation Area.

The first fires in the Pecos Zone for 2017 occurred in January with 6 fires for 78.8 acres. Fire season peaked between May and July with 88 fires occurring during those three months. The fire season ended with a total of 207 fires for 11,714.465 acres. Alamogordo Dispatch continued to be very busy assisting with a total of 606 incidents.

Alamogordo Dispatch Operated in Initial Attack moving to 7 day coverage on March 5, 2017. Expanded dispatch operated for a total of 36 days in support of the Crown Mountain Fire and the Monument Fire.

Workload Summary

The WildCAD program used by ADC tracks the number of hours dispatchers spend working on specific incidents. In 2017, ADC dispatchers spent a total on 457,895 hours on open incidents within the WildCAD program. Below is a breakdown of how many hours were spent on incidents by agency.



Alamogordo Dispatch Center

The staff at Alamogordo Dispatch were able to aid other centers and incidents by taking 16 out of zone assignments for a total of 228 days. They traveled to Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon. Outside of the normal dispatch positions, they traveled as an Incident Contract Project Inspector, member of Large Fire Assessment Teams and an Engine Crew Member.

In 2017, the ADC staff participated in numerous activities and endeavors outside of the dispatch center. Nicole Finch was part of the BLM National Review Team that traveled to Utah. Nicole is currently on a detail with the Forest Service Washington Office – Fire and Aviation Management as part of the ROSS/IROC Integrated Project Team as an Information Specialist.

David Sosa and Nicole traveled to Reno, Nevada in March 2017 to attend the annual WildCAD conference to learn about updates to the WildCAD system and other dispatching programs.

Tiffany Fralie was detailed for most of 2016 with the BLM National Fire and Aviation Employee Centered Retention Team.

Jenny Allen completed a 4 month detail as the Lincoln National Forest Training Officer and IQCS Account Manager.

Tera Lowe and David were invited to the Gila National Forest in February 2017 to help teach the Annual Fire Safety Refresher at the Women in Fire Program. They were also part of a large Q&A session with the Program attendees.

Tera was also able to travel to Boise, ID to act as a ROSS Wizard and assist with an Expanded Dispatch Support Dispatcher course. She also took an assignment with an Engine from the Lincoln National Forest and completed a 14-day assignment in Idaho with E-827.

Eustace Gallerito traveled to AZ on assignment as an Incident Contract Project Inspector Trainee.

Kimberly Hinshaw accepted a 30-day detail to Montrose, Colorado as an Assistant Center Manager for the Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center.

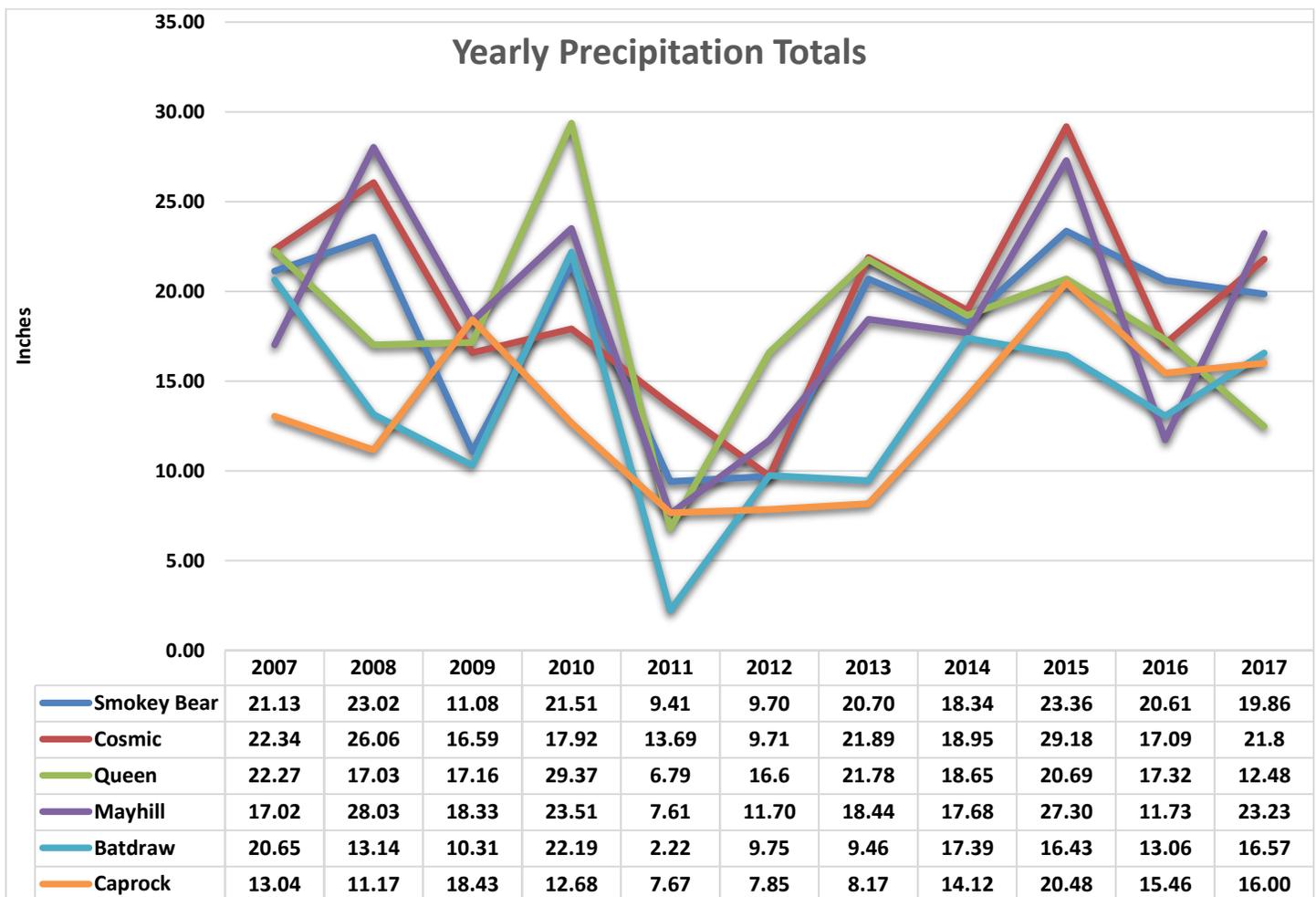
Luis Re was asked to be part of the BLM Large Fire Assessment Team and travel to Colorado to help with the Peekaboo Fire Review.

Weather

In 2017, the Pecos Zone had a wide variety of weather as we moved through the year. The year started off fairly dry with a few cold fronts and snowstorms moving through in the early part of the year. A drying trend occurred for the early spring but as late spring and early summer rolled around regular small shots of moisture helped take the punch of fire season out of most of the zone. Spring winds were not as consistent as they were in the past years and seemed to usher in these pulses of moisture. The monsoon season hit the zone pretty early and steady. By the end of July most of the zone had received enough moisture to be out of fire season. So far late winter has been very dry with little moisture or snowpack.

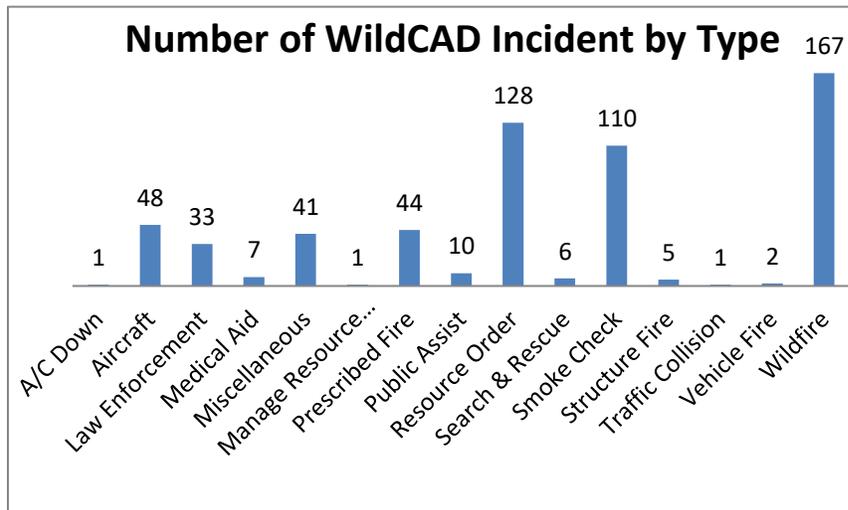
Rain events began in June and continued into September with zone RAWS stations showing a fair amount of moisture across the zone in August. Total precipitation (inches) for August pulled from RAWS stations: Cosmic 4.27, Smokey Bear 3.27, Queen 3.87, Mayhill 5.13, Batdraw 3.77, and Caprock 4.87. These 6 RAWS stations totaled 109.94 inches of rain for 2017 compared to 95.27 inches in 2016.

*Queen Raws Station was down for maintenance from October to December and did not record readings during that time.

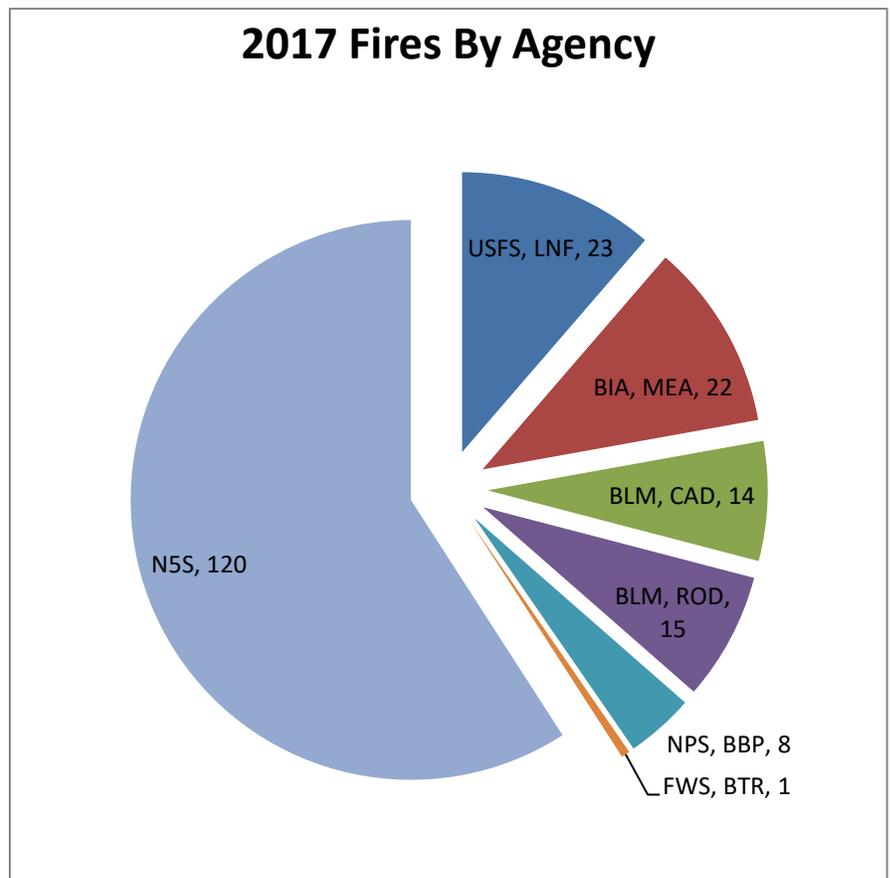


Pecos Zone WildCAD Incidents

In 2017, Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) handled 606 local incidents with 169 of those being Wildfires (1/1 thru 12/31). Aside from Wildfires, the second highest number of incidents were processing out of zone resource orders.



2017	FIRES	ACRES
USFS – LNF Lighting	11	184.64
USFS – LNF Human	12	505.50
N5S Lighting	25	1,454.57
N5S Human	95	7,829.30
BLM Lighting	7	421.35
BLM Human	22	57.275
NPS Lightning	3	1,159.46
NPS Human	7	77.4
FWS Lightning	1	0.20
FWS Human	0	0
BIA Lightning	6	8.10
BIA Human	16	16.37



WildCAD Incident History

- 2010: 432
 - 2011: 976
 - 2012: 491
 - 2013: 516
 - 2014: 547
 - 2015: 495
 - 2016: 669
 - 2017: 606

- 2017: 606 Incidents (01/01 – 12/31)
 - April - August
 - 397 Incidents (66%)
 - 48% of incidents occurred Between Tues - Thurs
 - 78% of incidents occurred between 0900 - 1700

Large Fires

NPS – Big Bend National Park

NAME	SIZE	START	TEAM	DATES ASSIGNED	DAYS
Crown Mountain	944	5/14	IMT -T3 – PEZ – Barta Admin Payment TEAM – Wilson (CA-SBCC)	5/15 – 5/20 5/19 – 5/27	5 9



Crown Mountain Fire
Photo by Kevin Pellman

10-Year Fire Summary

The tables below summarize the total number of fires and acres for the last 10 years for the land based agencies within the Pecos Zone.

USFS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2008	37	20,953
2009	42	262
2010	34	320
2011	70	117,079
2012	32	40,574
2013	19	132
2014	28	109
2015	24	121
2016	35	802
2017	23	690.14

N5S	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2008	319	289,275
2009	299	124,625
2010	211	42,088
2011	532	620,273
2012	132	19,869
2013	64	721
2014	81	7,214
2015	125	2,457
2016	197	47,668
2017	120	9,283.87

BLM	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2008	65	35,246
2009	54	73,214
2010	75	2731
2011	130	75,991
2012	47	1,181
2013	20	81
2014	44	211
2015	58	2,341
2016	46	1,501
2017	29	478.625

NPS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2008	5	31
2009	8	24
2010	12	21,185
2011	6	32,713
2012	3	174
2013	4	27
2014	3	8
2015	8	92
2016	14	15,465
2017	10	1,236.86

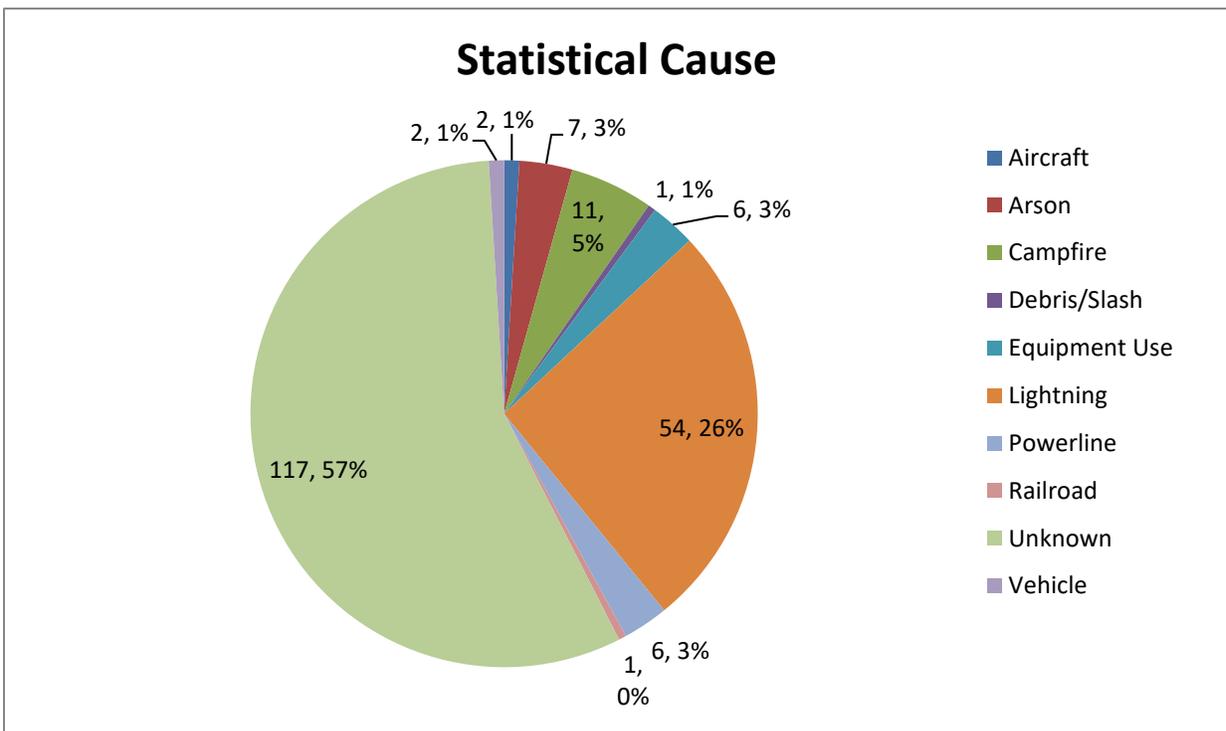
BIA	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2008	32	6,663
2009	27	6092
2010	16	3.5
2011	50	955
2012	39	32
2013	23	5
2014	30	56
2015	14	209
2016	33	909
2017	22	24.47

FWS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2008	4	44
2009	2	1
2010	1	1
2011	2	101
2012	0	0
2013	0	0
2014	3	24
2015	1	1
2016	3	13
2017	1	0.2

Fires by Statistical Cause

In 2017, 74% of the season's fires within the Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center's initial attack area were human caused. There were numerous non-statistical fires (campfires still within the ring and not a threat), and numerous smoke checks that ended up being false alarms.

Statistical Cause Class	2017
Aircraft	2
Arson	7
Campfire	11
Debris/Slash	1
Equipment Use	6
Lightning	54
Powerline	6
Railroad	1
Unknown	117
Vehicle	2



Prescribed Fire Accomplishments

The Lincoln National Forest treated 8,459 acres with management-ignited burns during 2017 FWS treated 4.5 acres, BIA treated 1,553 acres, and NPS treated 160 acres.

Pecos District BLM completed 29,805 acres of broadcast prescribed fire; 1 acre of pile burn; 670 acres of lop and scatter mechanical; and 1,915 acres of machine pile for a total of 32,049 acres treated. Pecos District BLM also assisted Lincoln National Forest Sacramento and Guadalupe Ranger District as well as NM State Land Office and Eddy County with prescribed fire operations.



Wet Burnt RX – Sacramento Ranger District



Soldier RX – Guadalupe Ranger District
Photo by Tom Barta

Multiple Objective Fires

Lincoln National Forest

On June 2nd, 2017 a lightning caused fire was discovered 6 miles North of Timberon, New Mexico on the Sacramento Ranger district. The decision was made to manage the Monument Fire for multiple objectives. The fire burned 170 acres and was called out on July 24th, 2017.



Monument Fire
Photo by Loretta Benavidez



Monument Fire
Photo by Loretta Benavidez

Crews

Regular Agency Type 1 Crew Assignments

Smokey Bear IHC

The crew reported for duty on March 19th and spent 106 days assigned to incidents, in travel status or staging. Once available, Smokey Bear IHC performed on fire suppression assignments in Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Texas completing six 14-day assignments.

Sacramento IHC

The crew reported for duty on March 20th and spent 134 days assigned to incidents, in travel status or staging. Once available, Sacramento IHC performed on fire suppression assignments in Arizona, California, Georgia, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon and Texas completing five 14-day assignments.

Regular Agency Type 2IA and Type 2 Crew Assignments

Mescalero BIA Type 2 and Type 2 IA crew responded to fire suppression assignments in Arizona, California, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

	Type 2IA/Type 2
AGENCY	BIA – Mescalero
DATE OF FIRST ASSIGNMENT	2/14
NUMBER OF FIRE ASSIGNMENTS*	10
OFF UNIT ASSIGNMENTS*	10
DAYS COMMITTED	120

*Excludes Fire support or Preposition orders.

Big Bend National Park Los Diablos Type 2 and Type 2 IA crew responded to fire suppression assignments in Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

	Type 2IA/Type 2
AGENCY	NPS – Big Bend Los Diablos
DATE OF FIRST ASSIGNMENT	5/14
NUMBER OF FIRE ASSIGNMENTS*	9
OFF UNIT ASSIGNMENTS*	8
DAYS COMMITTED	103

*Excludes Fire support or Preposition orders.

Camp Crew Assignments

Pecos Zone Type 3 Team

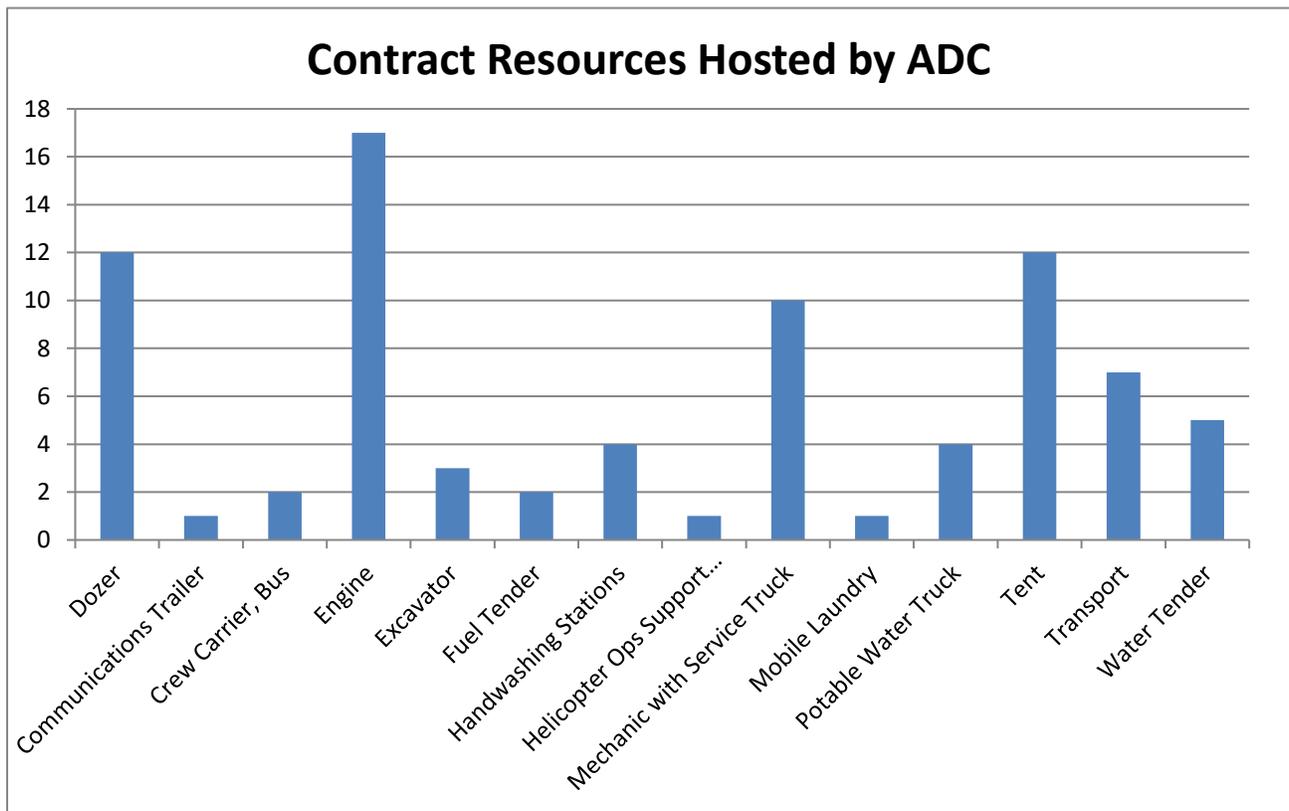
During the 2017 fire season, the Pecos Zone Type 3 Team was dispatched to 1 fire within the Zone. In May the team spent 5 days on the Crown Mountain Fire in Big Bend, Texas.

Logistical Activity

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center hosts 617 overhead personnel representing the following agencies:

AGENCY	LNF	CAD	ROD	BTR	BDR	SNR	WHP	N5S	MEA	AMP	BBP	CHP	CCP	FDP	GUP
TOTAL # OF PERSONNEL	174	41	50	8	1	2	10	31	176	16	71	2	14	3	18

ADC hosted a total of 81 Contract Resources in 2017. The chart below provides a breakdown of resources by type.



Resource Orders

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center processed 2,071 orders for 2017. Below is a chart showing the breakdown of the type of work processed. In comparison, last year we processed 5,272 resource orders in 2016 and 2,099 orders in 2015.

	ENTER	DELETE	PLACE	RETRIEVE	FILL	UNFILL	REASSIGN	RELEASE	CANCEL	CANCEL UTF	UTF
AIRCRAFT	9	0	3	0	16	0	0	7	0	0	1
CREW	22	0	15	2	47	11	3	18	1	0	6
EQUIPMENT	99	1	11	1	235	18	7	64	13	1	72
OVERHEAD	1,292	4	137	8	1,459	31	118	590	38	12	543
SUPPLY	591	2	220	5	314	1	0	15	22	11	0
TOTAL	2,013	7	386	16	2,071	61	128	694	74	24	622

Training

Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy

The Pecos Zone will be hosting a wildland fire academy in February 2018. The SBWFA held 19 classes in 7 days. Currently students are registered from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and Utah. Currently, 214 students are registered for the academy with 98 being from within the Pecos Zone.

SBWFA will be hosting a new refresher course aimed at qualified and trainee wildland fire investigators to provide changes and updates in methodology and provide skills necessary to conduct wildfire investigations. The session will include classroom presentation and field exercises to reinforce concepts in practice.

SBWFA has partnered with ENMU Ruidoso Branch which allowed the Academy to expand and host more classes at the college campus. SBWFA funded a scholarship that will be awarded to a student enrolled in the Wildland Fire Science Program. ENMU students are able to gain college credit towards their fire degrees through classes offered at the Academy.

SBWFA also provides a tuition waiver for veterans to attend courses, this year we have 8 veterans signed up to attend classes at the academy.

Southwest Area Priority Trainee Program

In 2017, the Pecos Zone submitted 12 nomination to be part of the SWA Priority Trainee Program. This program aims to enhance an individual's efforts to obtain quality assignments and work on taskbook completion of predetermined NWCG positions. The 12 individuals who participated in the program went on a collective total of 17 assignments and 3 were able to have their taskbooks completed and finalized.

For 2018, 15 nominations were submitted for the SWA Priority Trainee Program.

Aircraft

Alamogordo Air Tanker Base

The Alamogordo Air Tanker Base supported local and national operations with 5 loads of retardant, equaling 10,403 gallons on fires this year. The first load of retardant was used March 21st on the Roswell BLM Harrell fire and the last load of retardant was sent out on the 24th of April to the Sawmill fire in Arizona.

Alamogordo hosted a shared exclusive use Air Attack platform beginning of April. Although the platform did not fly any incidents in the Pecos Zone, it did assist Arizona during their busy fire season from May until the end of its availability period.

Roswell Air Tanker Base

Roswell Air Tanker Base initially opened on March 22 to support fires in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas if needed. The ATB opened again on T820 and T898 arrived on May 14. Both were released to the Tee Fire (AZ-A4S) on June 10. The ATGS (N844CH) arrived on May 15 and was released to the Frye Fire (AZ-TNF) on June 8.

In 2017, 22,378 gallons of retardant were delivered from the ATB.

Local Incident Aircraft Use by Type

In 2017, Alamogordo Dispatch performed flight following 6 times for various air resources within the zone.

The Pecos Zone Type 3 helicopter was ordered in April 2017 to support the Lincoln National Forest's Soldier RX in the Guadalupe Mountains. The helicopter was also ordered by Big Bend National Park, Lincoln National Forest and Mescalero BIA to assist with wildland fire operations.

SAFECOMS

No SAFECOMs were filed within the Pecos Zone in 2017.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

There were no UAS sightings or intrusions which effected wildland fire and air operations in the Pecos Zone. However, nationally 39 SAFECOMs were filed due to UAS sightings or intrusions effecting air operations during ongoing incidents. With the increase use of UASs by the public, Alamogordo dispatch continues to keep up-to-date on procedures concerning UAS sightings and intrusions. The ADC staff will be including information to ground folks during preseason presentations on proper procedures and information needed to report drone activities near wildland fire incidents.